

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of formatting inventory data comprising the steps of:
2 receiving a request for inventory data about an inventory at a location;
3 retrieving the inventory data;
4 formatting the inventory data to be displayed in a calendar section, an inventory
5 information section and a reservation information section within a single screen;
6 sending a response containing the formatted inventory data;
7 receiving a parameter further defining the request for inventory data; and
8 determining whether the received parameter changes the formatted inventory data,
9 and reformatting the inventory data changed by the received parameter within the single
10 screen and sending the reformatted inventory data whenever the received parameter changes
11 the formatted inventory data.

1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of determining whether
2 the received parameter requests that a reservation be made, and making the reservation and
3 sending a reservation confirmation whenever the received parameter requests that a
4 reservation be made.

1 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the reformatted inventory data comprises a
2 map of the location within the inventory information section.

1 4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the parameter indicates a selected
2 inventory type and the reformatted inventory data comprises an image of the selected
3 inventory type within the inventory information section.

1 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the parameter indicates a selected
2 inventory type and the reformatted inventory data comprises a visual indication of when the
3 selected inventory type is available within the calendar section.

1 6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the inventory comprises two or more
2 rooms and the location comprises a hotel.

1 7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the inventory comprises two or more
2 vehicles and the location comprises a rental agency.

1 8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the inventory comprises two or more
2 cabins and the location comprises a cruise ship.

1 9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the inventory comprises two or more seats
2 and the location comprises an airplane.

1 10. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the inventory comprises two or more seats
2 and the location comprises an entertainment venue.

1 11. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the calendar section comprises two or more
2 calendars.

1 12. The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the two or more calendars comprise:
2 a first calendar for a current month;
3 a second calendar for a next month; and
4 a month selection portion.

1 13. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the inventory information section
2 comprises:
3 one or more types of the inventory; and
4 an indication of availability for each type of the inventory.

1 14. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the reservation information section
2 comprises:
3 one or more customer data fields;
4 one or more payment data fields; and
5 an order summary.

1 15. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the single screen further comprises one or
2 more links to other information.

- 1 16. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the single screen further comprises one or
- 2 more navigation and control commands.

1 17. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for formatting
2 inventory data comprising:

3 a code segment for receiving a request for inventory data about an inventory at a
4 location;

5 a code segment for retrieving the inventory data;

6 a code segment for formatting the inventory data to be displayed in a calendar
7 section, an inventory information section and a reservation information section within a
8 single screen;

9 a code segment for sending a response containing the formatted inventory data;

10 a code segment for receiving a parameter further defining the request for inventory
11 data; and

12 a code segment for determining whether the received parameter changes the
13 formatted inventory data, and reformatting the inventory data changed by the received
14 parameter within the single screen and sending the reformatted inventory data whenever the
15 received parameter changes the formatted inventory data.

1 18. The computer program as recited in claim 17, further comprising a code segment for
2 determining whether the received parameter requests that a reservation be made, and making
3 the reservation and sending a reservation confirmation whenever the received parameter
4 requests that a reservation be made.

1 19. The computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the reformatted inventory data
2 comprises a map of the location within the inventory information section.

1 20. The computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the parameter indicates a
2 selected inventory type and the reformatted inventory data comprises an image of the
3 selected inventory type within the inventory information section.

1 21. The computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the parameter indicates a
2 selected inventory type and the reformatted inventory data comprises a visual indication of
3 when the selected inventory type is available within the calendar section.

1 22. The computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the inventory comprises two or
2 more rooms and the location comprises a hotel.

1 23. The computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the inventory comprises two or
2 more vehicles and the location comprises a rental agency.

1 24. The computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the inventory comprises two or
2 more cabins and the location comprises a cruise ship.

1 25. The computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the inventory comprises two or
2 more seats and the location comprises an airplane.

1 26. The computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the inventory comprises two or
2 more seats and the location comprises an entertainment venue.

1 27. The computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the calendar section comprises
2 two or more calendars.

1 28. The computer program as recited in claim 27, wherein the two or more calendars
2 comprise:

- 3 a first calendar for a current month;
4 a second calendar for a next month; and
5 a month selection portion.

1 29. The computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the inventory information
2 section comprises:

- 3 one or more types of the inventory; and
4 an indication of availability for each type of the inventory.

1 30. The computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the reservation information
2 section comprises:

- 3 one or more customer data fields;
4 one or more payment data fields; and
5 an order summary.

- 1 31. The computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the single screen further
- 2 comprises one or more links to other information.

- 1 32. The computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the single screen further
- 2 comprises one or more navigation and control commands.

1 33. A system for formatting inventory data:
2 a database;
3 a communications interface; and
4 a computer communicably coupled to the database and the communications interface,
5 wherein the computer receives a request for inventory data about an inventory at a location
6 from the communications interface, retrieves the inventory data from the database, formats
7 the inventory data to be displayed in a calendar section, an inventory information section and
8 a reservation information section within a single screen, sends a response containing the
9 formatted inventory data to the communications interface, receives a parameter further
10 defining the request for inventory data from the communications interface, and determines
11 whether the received parameter changes the formatted inventory data, and reformats the
12 inventory data changed by the received parameter within the single screen and sends the
13 reformatted inventory data to the communications interface whenever the received parameter
14 changes the formatted inventory data.

1 34. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the computer further determines whether
2 the received parameter requests that a reservation be made, and makes the reservation and
3 sends a reservation confirmation whenever the received parameter requests that a reservation
4 be made.

1 35. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the reformatted inventory data comprises a
2 map of the location within the inventory information section.

1 36. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the parameter indicates a selected
2 inventory type and the reformatted inventory data comprises an image of the selected
3 inventory type within the inventory information section.

1 37. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the parameter indicates a selected
2 inventory type and the reformatted inventory data comprises a visual indication of when the
3 selected inventory type is available within the calendar section.

1 38. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the inventory comprises two or more
2 rooms and the location comprises a hotel.

1 39. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the inventory comprises two or more
2 vehicles and the location comprises a rental agency.

1 40. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the inventory comprises two or more
2 cabins and the location comprises a cruise ship.

1 41. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the inventory comprises two or more seats
2 and the location comprises an airplane.

1 42. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the inventory comprises two or more seats
2 and the location comprises an entertainment venue.

1 43. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the calendar section comprises two or
2 more calendars.

1 44. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the two or more calendars comprise:
2 a first calendar for a current month;
3 a second calendar for a next month; and
4 a month selection portion.

1 45. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the inventory information section
2 comprises:
3 one or more types of the inventory; and
4 an indication of availability for each type of the inventory.

1 46. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the reservation information section
2 comprises:
3 one or more customer data fields;
4 one or more payment data fields; and
5 an order summary.

1 47. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the single screen further comprises one or
2 more links to other information.

1 48. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein the single screen further comprises one or
2 more navigation and control commands.